VA Liaison Program: Transitioning Health Care from DoD to VA

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“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan…”
Abraham Lincoln

VA's Newest Combat Veterans

Department of Veterans Affairs

- **Veterans Health Administration**
  - VA Medical Centers (VAMC), Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), Vet Centers
- **Veterans Benefits Administration**
  - Compensation, Pension, Voc Rehab, Home, Loan Guarantee, etc.
- **Veterans Cemetery Administration**
  - Maintains national cemeteries across the country

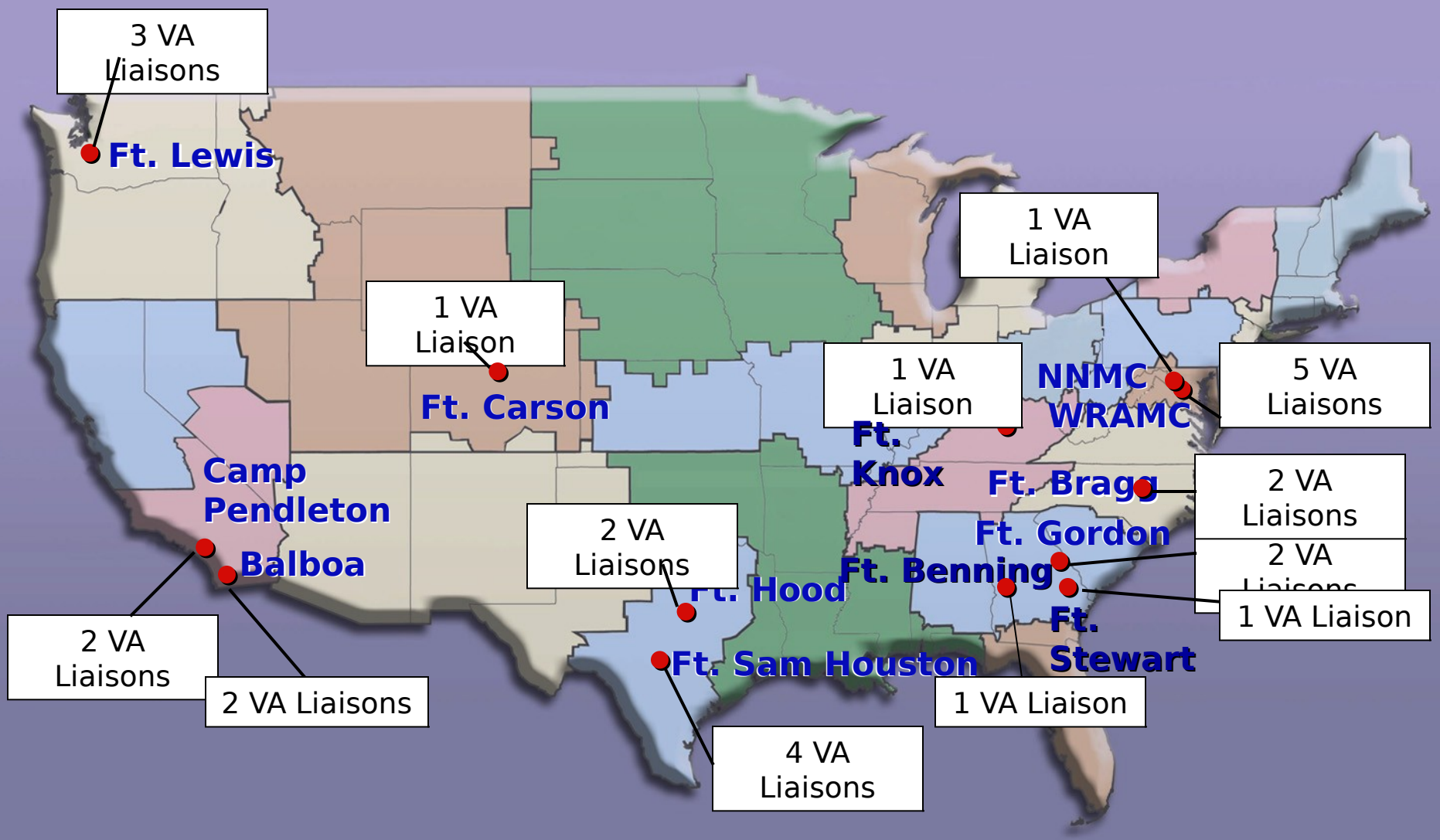
Locating VA Staff at Military Treatment Facilities

- VA & DoD partnership began in August 2003
- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) placed VA Liaisons for Health Care to assist Military Service Members (Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserves) with transitioning their health care from DoD to VHA

VA Liaisons for Health Care

- VA has 27 full time social workers and nurses working as VA Liaisons in 13 Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs)
- National funding for VA Liaisons from VA Central Office
  - -Sites determined in coordination with the Department of the Army and Department of the Navy
- Programmatically assigned to Care Management and Social Work Service (CM/SWS) at VA Central Office; administratively assigned to local VA Medical Center (VAMC)

VHA Staff Assigned to Military Treatment Facilities



VA Liaisons for Health Care

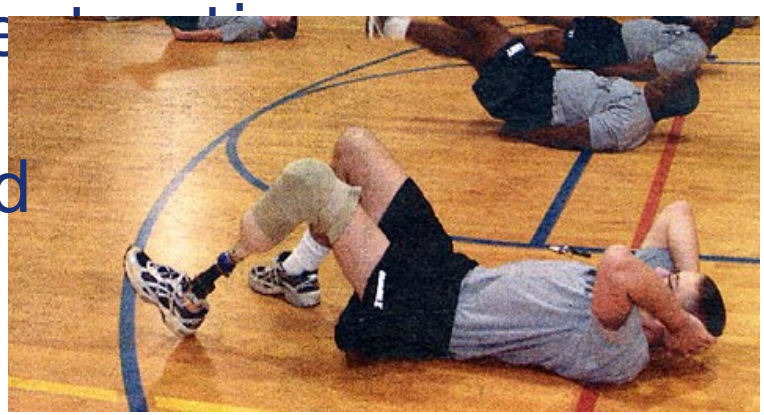
- MTFs identified for future VA Liaison Assignments
  - Ft. Eustis
  - Ft. Bliss
  - Ft. Drum
  - Ft. Riley
  - Ft. Campbell

VA Liaisons for Health Care

- Standardized Social Worker and Nurse Functional Statements for all VA Liaisons
- Utilize a standardized Referral Form to the VA Liaison from the MTF Case Manager which outlines the health care needs of the service member
- Expectations outlined in Memorandum of Agreement between each MTF and corresponding Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Standardized Documentation in VA's Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS)

VA Liaisons for Health Care

- VA Liaisons coordinate VA healthcare for service members transitioning to VA (Severely Ill/Injured and Non-Severely Ill/Injured) that are referred to the VA Liaison from the MTF Case Manager
- VA Liaisons are integrated with staff at the MTF to coordinate health care and provide onsite consultation/collaboration about VA resources and treatme
- A majority of VA Liaisons are co-located with Military Case Managers



VA Liaisons for Health Care

- Educate veterans, service members and families on VA healthcare resources and the system of care
- Participate in video teleconferencing between MTF and VA staff
- Register service members/enroll veterans in VA to schedule appointments or secure inpatient beds prior to leaving the Military Treatment Facility
- Coordinate referrals with OEF/OIF Program Manager at the receiving VA Medical Center
- Release information to State Department of Veterans Affairs for patients who are severely injured

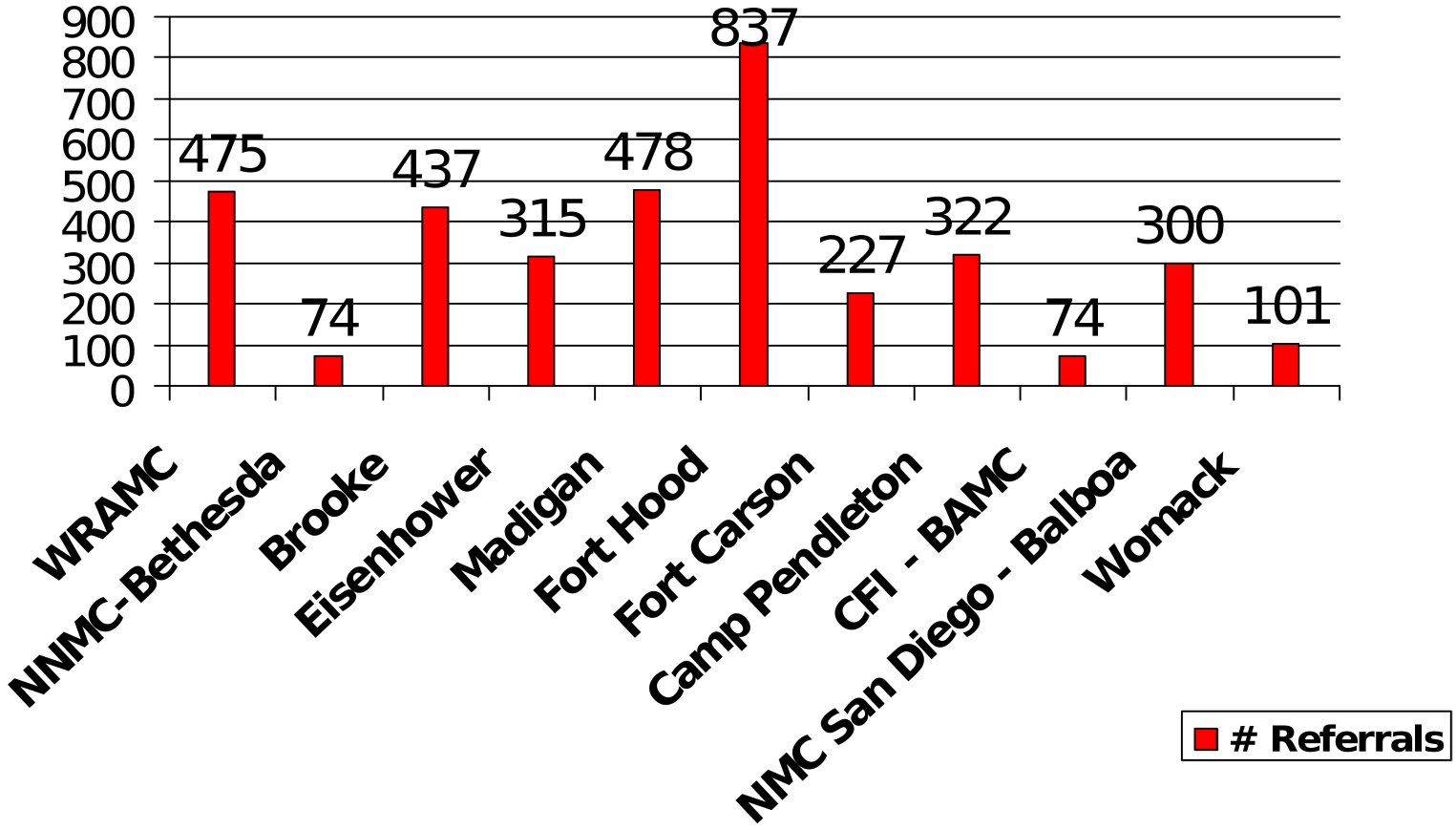
VA System of Care

- 153 Hospitals
- Over 900 Ambulatory Care and Community Based Outpatient Clinics
- Over 200 Vet Centers – Readjustment Counseling Centers – also treats family
- Women's Health Program
- Spinal Cord Injury Rehab (SCI)
- Blind Rehab Centers (BRC) – VIST, BROS, etc.
- Residential/Inpatient/Outpatient PTSD Programs
- Polytrauma Rehab Centers (PRCs)
- Polytrauma Network Site (PNS)
- Polytrauma Support Clinical Teams (PSCT)
- In-Home Care
- Prosthetics and Sensory Aids
- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
- Any many more….

Types of Referrals

- Referrals initiated by MTF clinical team member
- Inpatient transfers to VA Medical Centers: Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers, Spinal Cord Injury Rehab, Blind Rehab, etc.
- Outpatient follow up for service members going home on convalescent leave or limited duty
- Assistance with registration and appointments for Active Duty Service Members separating from the military, including while on terminal leave

through the VA Liaisons for Health Care



Numbers for Calendar Year 2008

VA OEF/OIF Care Management Teams

At each VA Medical Center:

- OEF/OIF Program Manager
  - Serves as POC for referrals from MTF; coordinates clinical care and oversees transition and care for OEF/OIF service members and veterans; assigns case managers and Transition Patient Advocates
- OEF/OIF Case Manager
  - Provides case management services to Severely Ill/Injured patients and to those identified in need of case management
- Transition Patient Advocate (TPA)
  - Serves as an advocate across episodes and sites of care for patients who are severely ill/injured

Additional VA Staff at MTFs

- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
- Polytrauma Nurse Liaison
- Federal Recovery Coordinators (FRCs) (joint VA/DoD Program)